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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT	Soviet Naval Vessels Sighted in the Gulf of Finland	DATE DISTR.	15 December 1954
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. At 0030 on 8 June 1954, two Soviet destroyers, each with two smokestacks, were sighted at N 59-45, E 24-40 proceeding at varying speeds and on different courses. The vessels had set their position lights and a masthead light but no signal lights.
2. About 0930 on 8 June, a group of Soviet minesweepers, consisting of four large and two small vessels, was sighted at N 60-11, E 27-20. The larger vessels, which appeared to be ex-German M-43-type minesweepers, had one smokestack, a tripod mast, one gun on the foredeck, and two guns aft. The smokestack was painted silver-gray with a black top. The smaller vessels resembled former German coastal minesweepers except that they had a higher bridge superstructure. The minesweepers sailed in echelon, the large vessels ahead. All the vessels had extended their minesweeping gear. They appeared to be sweeping the channel between Sommeri and Tieskeri.
3. About 1200 on 8 June, a large minesweeper of the POLUKHIN Class was sighted north of Lavansaari. The vessel was proceeding on a westerly course at high speed, but later changed to an easterly course.
4. On 8 June, Soviet auxiliary ship [] was sighted proceeding on a westerly course. The vessel had two smokestacks and two high masts and was fitted with radar mounted on a trellis mast. An antiaircraft gun with an estimated caliber of 40 mm. was located on either side of the forecastle. Besides lifeboats fore and aft, the ship carried two large motor barges. The space on the high deck between the two smokestacks was taken up by a number of compasses. There were eight magnetic compasses on each side; between each pair were repeater compasses. On the high bridge were five DF antennas. The vessel appeared to be a training ship, possibly the KOMSOMOLETS. Originally the KOMSOMOLETS had three smokestacks; however, the wide gap between the two smokestacks on the ship sighted indicated that the middle stack had been removed. On 15 June, the vessel was again seen moored in the roads off Kronshadt.

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5. At 1305 on 8 June, Soviet destroyer [] proceeding at high speed on a westerly course, passed buoy No. 2 about 20 nautical miles from the Leningrad lightship. Soviet cruiser [] was seen about ten miles from the lightship on a course for Leningrad. [] had one smokestack and looked like the former cruiser NUERNBERG. It was seen again on 15 June in the middle harbor of Kronshtadt. At 1600 on 8 June, Soviet motor torpedo boats [] were sighted near the Leningrad lightship. Both vessels flew the green flag of the border guards. At the same time, submarine [] was sighted south of the lightship.
6. On 8 June, a battleship of the GANGUT Class and auxiliary vessel [] were riding at anchor in the roads off Kronshtadt. The auxiliary vessel, which resembled the former German survey ship METEOR, was about 3,000 GRT and was fitted with a straight smokestack and two masts. It was equipped with an undetermined number of antiaircraft guns. Seven large and medium submarines were seen in the western harbor basin of Kronshtadt. Cruiser [] a modern vessel fitted with two smokestacks, was in the middle harbor. [] the cruiser belonged to the SVERDLOV Class. Another cruiser of the same type was in the graving dock. Two large sailing ships used for training were also in the middle port. The stern of the former battleship MARAT was seen near the entrance channel. The vessel still had a smokestack, a high mast, and a turret astern. Forward of the smokestack, the vessel had been cut off and partitioned with bulkheads. There was intensive activity on board the ship. Numerous smaller units were seen in the two other basins farther to the east. A total of 40 to 50 vessels, including three or four destroyers, vessels of the KRONSHADT Class, motor torpedo boats, tugboats, floating cranes, motor boats, and barges were observed.
7. On 15 June, cruiser 16 of the SVERDLOV Class, and another vessel of the SVERDLOV Class were seen moored side by side in Kronshtadt. Destroyer [] a very modern vessel fitted with two smokestacks, was anchored before the entry to the middle port. Three sets of torpedo tubes were seen amidship. A battleship of the GANGUT Class, auxiliary vessels [] and cruiser [] of the SVERDLOV Class, were seen riding at anchor in the roads off Kronshtadt.
8. At 1800 on 15 June, seven minesweepers [] were sighted south of Porkkala. The vessels were fitted with a slanting smokestack marked by a dark green stripe. All the vessels had extended their minesweeping gear and carried a black ball on the starboard signal yard, and the yellow international flag "Q" below the black ball. Three groups of two boats each operated jointly and the seventh vessel laid out buoys. The area in which the group practiced was marked by buoys and flags. About the same time, nine vessels of the KRONSHADT Class were sighted leaving the port of Tallinn. The vessels proceeded via Naissaari (N 59-30, E 24-25) toward Porkkala, but altered course and returned in line formation toward Tallinn. Besides vessels of the KRONSHADT Class, two smaller escort vessels were seen proceeding from Porkkala to Tallinn. A landing craft, a medium escort vessel, and a small old escort vessel proceeded from Tallinn toward Porkkala. Minesweeper [] was lying near the ship route. Between 2000 and 2200, a group of minesweepers [] two more vessels of the same type, and a fifth vessel which was much smaller, was sighted off Osmussaari (N 59-18, E 23-24). All the vessels had extended their minesweeping gear, which was marked by buoys mounting a flag. The vessels proceeded in echelon. The four larger vessels appeared to be former German minesweepers.
9. At about 2030 on 15 June, a naval vessel, apparently the coastal patrol ship VYBORG, was sighted 60 nautical miles off the northern tip of Osmussaari. The vessel proceeded back and forth along the coast at low speed.
1. [] Comment: The Soviet cruiser ADMIRAL MAKAROV was formerly the NUERNBERG of the German Navy.

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